

The Legislature of Rockland County



PHILIP SOSKIN
LEGISLATOR - DISTRICT 7
CHAIR, MULTI-SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES
MULTI-SERVICES COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2013
6:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

LEG. P. SOSKIN, CHAIR
LEG. J. HOOD, JR., VICE-CHAIR (arrived 6:08)
LEG. T. EARL, 2nd VICE-CHAIR
LEG. A. PAUL
LEG. D. JOBSON (arrived 6:22)
LEG. J. MEYERS

MEMBERS ABSENT:

LEG. P. MORONEY

OTHERS PRESENT:

LEG. A. WOLFE LEG. N. LOW-HOGAN
E. YEGER, ESQ. M. LEITZES
S. THOMSON B. ATKINS
R. MCKAY, ESQ. N. DOLINER
K. SINCERBOX R. HANSEN
S. SHERWOOD J. MOLOF
M. ZIPPILLI MEDIA
L. BABCOCK J. DONNELLAN

CHAIR SOSKIN CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:06 PM

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 4/9/13 MEETING

MOTION TO ADOPT:

SOSKIN/PAUL

UNAN

1. REF. #9209 - EXPRESSING THE OPPOSITION OF THE ROCKLAND COUNTY LEGISLATURE TO ASSEMBLY BILL A. **689** AND SENATE BILL S.1461 THAT REQUIRE COUNTIES TO IMPLEMENT EARLY VOTING
(E. DAY, LEGISLATOR, COUNTY LEGISLATURE) TITLE CHANGE

**RED DOT
VERSION**

ADDED CO-SPONSORS: SOSKIN, HOOD, JR., EARL, PAUL, MEYERS, JOBSON

MOTION TO APPROVE AS AMENDED:

SOSKIN/HOOD, JR., JOBSON

TRANSFERRED TO B & F

UNAN

ACTION: The resolution is to be amended to request that the state legislation be amended to allow counties to opt-in to provide early voting opportunities and to urge the state to fund said early voting.

Leg. Day stated that this is not about the merits of early voting, but is solely focused on the fact that the state failed counties by adding an unfunded mandate in excess of \$1.4 million yearly. Most of the 2% tax cap would go towards this one item. The state should look at its own budget and look for ways to pay for this. BOE Commissioner L. Babcock stated that they would need to buy new machines and the new bill would require starting 15 days early, from 8 A.M. – 8 P.M., and 9 A.M. – 5 P.M. weekends, which means 164 man-hours. 54 additional people would be needed and it is hard enough to find people now. That doesn't include overtime at the BOE. They would also have to print out extra ballots that say early voting. If they had unlimited days to submit absentee ballots with no questions asked, like other states, there would be no extra costs, but it would require a change in state law and would take some time. This law would also be for primaries and next year they will have three elections, so it would probably cost about \$600,000 per election or \$1.8 million per year added to the budget. Leg. Day stated that NYS Assemblyman Ken Zebrowski voted no on this. Leg. Meyers said the law could be changed for counties to pay for it, but if they don't opt in, they don't pay for it. He said it is okay to ask for an opt-in, but it is not okay to ask for an opt-in and ask the state to pay for it. He suggested amending so that, due to statewide interest in early voting, the state should find a mechanism for funding at the state level.

2. REF. #9361 - URGING THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE TO PASS SENATE BILL S.2363 AND ASSEMBLY BILL A. 2417 TO ESTABLISH A COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE ASTHMA MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL PROGRAM WHICH COORDINATES THE EFFORTS OF INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS, SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS
(A. PAUL, LEGISLATOR, COUNTY LEGISLATURE)

ADDED CO-SPONSORS: SOSKIN, HOOD, JR., EARL, MEYERS, JOBSON

**MOTION TO APPROVE:
SOSKIN/PAUL**

UNAN

Leg. Paul stated that asthma affects over one million New Yorkers, including children, which could be largely avoided by early treatment and education. Asthma is accountable for one million missed school days and early screening has proven effective for children and families.

3. REF. #9481- AMENDING THE 2013 BUDGET BY APPROVING THE ACCEPTANCE OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$85,112 [NCTD] FROM THE NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF MENTAL HEALTH TO BE DISTRIBUTED TO JAWONIO, INC. AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS INCLUDING THE APPLICABLE CONTRACT AMENDMENT [DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH] (\$85,112)
(M. WALSH TOZER, COMMISSIONER, DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH)

ADDED SPONSORS: SOSKIN, HOOD, JR., EARL, PAUL, JOBSON

**MOTION TO APPROVE:
JOBSON/EARL**

**TRANSFERRED TO B & F
UNAN**

4. REF. #8372 - APPROVING A SECOND AMENDMENT TO AN AGREEMENT IN EXCESS OF \$100,000 WITH NYACK HOSPITAL FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF ADDITIONAL PRENATAL CLINIC SERVICES UNDER RFP-RC-2010-024 IN THE ADDITIONAL AMOUNT OF \$51,766 FOR A TOTAL CONTRACT SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$3,009,170 FOR THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1, 2011 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND AUTHORIZING ITS EXECUTION BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE [DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH] (\$3,009,170)
(K. HENRY, ACTING COMMISSIONER, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH)

ADDED SPONSORS: SOSKIN, HOOD, JR., EARL, PAUL, JOBSON

**MOTION TO APPROVE:
SOSKIN/EARL, PAUL**

**TRANSFERRED TO B & F
UNAN**

5. REF. #2867 - APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR THE FISCAL MANAGEMENT AND PAYMENT OF CLAIMS FOR THE EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM [DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH]
(K. HENRY, ACTING COMMISSIONER, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH)

ADDED SPONSORS: SOSKIN, HOOD, JR., EARL, PAUL

**MOTION TO APPROVE:
SOSKIN/EARL, PAUL, HOOD, JR.**

**TRANSFERRED TO B & F
UNAN**

R. Hansen stated that, as of April 1, 2013, the State Fiscal Agent took over, rather than the county. Money needs to be deposited up front to pay for the providers and the county will eventually get it back.

6. REF. #3657 - APPROVING CONTRACT IN EXCESS OF \$100,000 WITH SOPHIE'S HEALTH CARE SERVICES, INC., SUFFERN, NEW YORK TO PROVIDE HOME CARE SERVICES TO QUALIFIED SENIOR CITIZEN'S IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$210,000 FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 1, 2013 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2014 AND AUTHORIZING ITS EXECUTION BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE [OFFICE FOR THE AGING] (\$210,000)
(J. MOLOF, COMMISSIONER, OFFICE FOR THE AGING)

ADDED SPONSORS: SOSKIN, HOOD, JR., EARL, PAUL, MEYERS, JOBSON

**MOTION TO APPROVE:
SOSKIN/EARL**

**TRANSFERRED TO B & F
UNAN**

7. REF. #8281 - APPROVING A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH 26 NEW MAIN STREET LLC FOR ONE YEAR WITH AN OPTION TO RENEW FOR AN ADDITIONAL ONE (1) YEAR FOR THE PERIOD FROM APRIL 15, 2013 THROUGH APRIL 14, 2014 FOR CLINIC/SERVICES FOR THE WOMEN, INFANT AND CHILDREN (WIC) PROGRAM [DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH] (\$18,697)
(K. HENRY, ACTING COMMISSIONER, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH)

ADDED SPONSORS: SOSKIN, HOOD, JR., EARL, PAUL, JOBSON

**MOTION TO APPROVE:
SOSKIN/EARL, PAUL, JOBSON**

**TRANSFERRED TO B & F
UNAN**

8. REF. #9263/9473 - APPROVING A CONTRACT IN EXCESS OF \$100,000 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$400,679 WITH CENTER FOR SAFETY AND CHANGE, INC. (F/K/A/ ROCKLAND FAMILY SHELTER) TO PROVIDE NON-RESIDENTIAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2013 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2013 AND AUTHORIZING ITS EXECUTION BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE [DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES] (\$400,679)
(S. SHERWOOD, COMMISSIONER, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES)

ADDED SPONSORS: SOSKIN, HOOD, JR., EARL, PAUL, JOBSON

**MOTION TO APPROVE:
SOSKIN/EARL, PAUL, JOBSON**

**TRANSFERRED TO B & F
UNAN**

Commissioner Sherwood stated that this is a continuing contract done annually for about the same as last year. It is for counseling, case management, legal assistance, and a hotline. The local share is about 20% or \$80,000. They served about 1000 women last year.

9. REF. #9481 - DISCUSSION ITEM OPERATIONAL REVIEW (DEPARTMENTAL FUNCTIONS) VETERANS SERVICE AGENCY AND OFFICE FOR THE AGING
(P. SOSKIN, LEGISLATOR, COUNTY LEGISLATURE)

**RED DOT
VERSION**

DISCUSSED

OFFICE FOR THE AGING:

Director Molof provided the updated directory of services for seniors. She stated that, per the census, Rockland County had the largest growth of seniors in the state and a large flow of seniors migrating into the state. They had a waiting list last year for ISEP (in home services) of 258 seniors, but extra money decreased the waiting list. They are working towards keeping people at home. They have 9 full-time and 2 part-time employees. She was informed by the NYSOFA that sequestration would account for a \$20,000 cut, but nothing was cut from the seniors at the federal level. Leg. Paul thanked Director Molof for the information and for the work done by her department. She said she was amazed at all the programs, including a senior prom to be held in Haverstraw.

VETERANS SERVICE AGENCY:

Director Donnellan stated that the agency brought in \$46.6 million to Rockland County. The money goes into the pockets of the veterans and clinics, so the veterans can afford to stay here and pay their taxes, etc., so the money comes back into the county. He said an Iraq War Veteran filled the Veteran's Specialist position in February. Chair Soskin asked about burial costs. Director Donnellan said it costs \$135 for a plot for a veteran and a spouse or for their children. The opening and closing of a grave costs about \$500, but that is contracted out. The grounds are taken care of by the Facilities Management Department. Chair Soskin asked about future plans for returning veterans. Director Donnellan said that the biggest problem was finding them. They run posters and events and go by lists, but the best way to reach them is through their peers and media they understand. Leg. Day said that the Veteran's Specialist position was not new. It had been there before, but was taken away and returned. He said the department is still short a person and asked for a comparison to Orange County. Director Donnellan stated that Orange County has two times the veterans, because it is cheaper to live there. They have 12 full-time staff and Rockland County has three. They have four times the employees, but two times the veterans.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: (7:09 PM)
JOBSON/EARL

UNAN

"The Rockland County Legislature is committed to full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. To that end, the Legislature is committed to creating an accessible environment for all. To request accommodations that you may require, please call Damaris Alvarez at 845-638-5248 (845-708-7899 for TTY/TDD). Please request these accommodations three (3) days in advance so that we can seek to meet your needs."

MS 4.30.13.MIN/PS